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## VIII.—LABOUR

### Agricultural Labour

241 There being no agriculture in the Colony, the question of agricultural labour does not arise.

### Industrial Labour

464 Workers for heavy manual labour are obtained from the Protec-
466 torate and the Yemen. This form of labour is principally confined to the shipping companies and the salt works. The demand for cargo and coal coolies varies, and the local companies arrange through their agents to recruit labour as and when required. The salt companies employ a permanent staff of coolies who are recruited by local agents from the Protectorate and the Yemen. These agents arrange to replace casualties and recruit extra labour when necessary.

466 The interests of the workmen are safeguarded by the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, which are in force in the Colony.

## IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

● 463 The inhabitants of Aden are principally engaged in trading, shop-keeping and domestic employment. The large numbers of coolies employed by the salt-works, shipping concerns and contractors are drawn from the Aden Protectorate or the Yemen. The small harbour craft are manned by Somalis, who take kindly to this form of semi-sedentary employment.

464 More than half of the personal servant class comes from the Aden Protectorate and the Yemen. Clerical labour in public offices and large commercial firms is largely Indian, although as education improves more local Arabs are finding employment in Government offices and with European firms. Local Arab firms employ Arab clerical labour almost exclusively.

Masons and building operatives are drawn principally from the
465 Yemen. The following rates of wages are paid.

Coolies from 8 to 12 annas a day (8 hours).
Masons from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Carpenters from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Clerks from Rs. 35 to Rs. 250 a month (according to grade).
Personal servant Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 a month.
Motor drivers Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 a month.

262 The daily staple food of a coolie is 2 lb. flour, 2 ounces of ghee,
435 and also fish or meat to the cost of about 2 annas. The total value
465 of the food consumed daily is about 6 annas.
511

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The following table shows the value of the most important articles of the export trade for the last five years:— 439

| *Articles.* | *1933–34.* | *1934–35.* | *1935–36.* | *1936–37.* | *1937.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Piece goods, grey | 50,91,091 | 36,66,609 | 50,62,407 | 40,02,310 | 40,99,727 |
| Piece goods, white | 5,78,526 | 5,19,395 | 7,55,098 | 9,99,452 | 9,76,935 |
| Piece goods, coloured. | 29,83,297 | 28,28,147 | 31,77,184 | 40,86,579 | 38,87,306 |
| Coffee ... ... | 31,34,717 | 28,58,217 | 39,11,003 | 28,12,927 | 21,26,392 |
| Skins, raw ... | 56,95,317 | 39,18,447 | 53,57,094 | 71,94,785 | 80,94,619 |
| Hides, raw ... | 53,752 | 82,526 | 1,27,990 | 3,25,928 | 4,75,556 |
| Grain and pulse | 27,61,882 | 16,03,581 | 24,82,494 | 27,98,300 | 36,12,030 |
| Tobacco ... | 12,92,646 | 13,78,639 | 13,56,710 | 18,30,367 | 14,38,868 |
| Provisions and oilman's stores. | 5,35,699 | 5,67,504 | 6,61,462 | 5,55,675 | 6,60,563 |
| Sugar ... ... | 10,87,305 | 12,06,576 | 15,02,102 | 14,57,450 | 12,20,192 |
| Gums and resins | 6,31,467 | 6,08,409 | 7,66,767 | 5,83,822 | 8,42,817 |
| Salt ... ... | 29,83,410 | 27,89,402 | 36,13,997 | 30,96,141 | 33,69,418 |
| Cotton twist ... | 10,33,532 | 6,95,806 | 8,89,717 | 4,27,177 | 4,66,793 |
| Spices ... ... | 4,22,202 | 4,57,992 | 7,19,220 | 8,22,421 | 8,95,923 |
| Oils ... ... | 2,18,332 | 2,66,069 | 5,42,149 | 8,90,763 | 6,56,495 |
| Metals ... ... | 1,75,122 | 1,75,551 | 2,32,203 | 2,40,826 | 3,62,868 |
| Animals, living | 1,46,590 | 82,933 | 1,19,831 | 40,215 | 10,153 |
| Tea ... ... | 1,28,488 | 1,53,255 | 3,10,864 | 3,33,660 | 5,51,726 |
| Dyeing materials | 3,02,764 | 1,64,348 | 2,25,600 | 2,87,660 | 4,23,717 |
| Soap ... ... | 1,07,675 | 1,10,503 | 1,87,092 | 2,71,081 | 3,15,667 |
| Shells ... ... | 64,967 | 72,644 | 1,22,996 | 1,19,811 | 1,26,049 |

## VIII.—LABOUR.

### Agricultural Labour.

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### Industrial Labour.

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## IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

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464 and large commercial firms is mostly Indian, although as education improves more and more local Arabs are finding employment in Government offices and European firms. Local Arab firms employ Arab clerical labour almost exclusively.

[465] Masons and building operatives are principally from the Yemen. The following rates of wages are paid:—

Coolies from 8 to 12 annas a day (8 hours).
Masons from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Carpenters from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Clerks from Rs.35 to Rs.250 a month (according to grade).
Personal servants Rs.15 to Rs.50 a month.
Motor-drivers Rs.40 to Rs.100 a month.

511 The daily staple food of a coolie is 2 lb. flour, 2 ounces of
262 ghee, and also fish or meat to the cost of about 2 annas. The total value of the food consumed daily is about 6 annas.

511 The cost of living in the case of others varies with the emoluments of the individual concerned. European standard would average Rs.5 a day exclusive of servants' wages, cost of entertaining and club expenses.

## X.—EDUCATION, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, AND RECREATION.

### Education.

#### Organisation and Administration.

871 While Aden was attached to India, the administration of education followed, with some local modifications, the system obtaining in the Bombay Presidency, and no radical changes in internal organization have been effected since the constitution of Aden as a Colony.

The administration is carried out, under the Governor, by an Education Officer, assisted by a clerical staff. The post of Education Officer was held until November, 1937, by an Indian officer seconded from the Indian Education Service. It is now held by a British officer of the Colonial Education Service. From March, 1933, to March, 1937, there was also an Assistant Education Officer whose main duty was to improve the teaching in

5; Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepot industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries—garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under employment and poverty.

Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are always low, partly on account of the very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

For skilled workers the outlook is far better. There is such a dearth of trained or capable men that they command good wages.

The wages of unskilled labour were about Re. 1 a day (1*s.* 6*d.*), and it is possible to support a family on this sum. Immigrant labourers from the Yemen, who come to Aden as single men, even manage to save up enough to return after a year or so with clothes for their women-folk and money to pay off debts or buy land. Of skilled trades, carpenters earn about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a day (4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*), blacksmiths much the same, welders about Rs. 100 (£7 10*s.*) a month or more. Hours vary from 48 to 60 per week in the various industries.

The following are the prices of a few of the more necessary commodities:

*Food*

Butter, Rs. 2.4.0 per lb.
Cheese, Rs. 1.1.0 per 12-oz. tin.
Fish, about 1 anna for a fish of the herring type and size, or less for coarser fish.
Flour, 5 as. per lb.
Ghee, Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.8.0 per lb.
Meat, 10 as. to 12 as. per lb.
Potatoes, 4 as. per lb.
Rice, 7 as. per lb.
Soap (Key Pale), 6 as. per 250-gram cake.
Sugar, brown, 5 as. per lb.
white, 6 as. per lb.
Tea, Rs. 1.14.0 per lb.

*Clothing*

Sheeting, coloured, Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 per yard.
Shirt, Rs. 5.
Shirting, white, Rs. 1.8.0 to Rs. 1.12.0 per yard.
Tropical suit, Rs. 60 and upwards.

G.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The following table shows the number of persons who entered or left the Colony during 1948:

| | *Emigration out of Aden Colony during 1948* | | *Immigration into Aden Colony during 1948* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *By Sea* | *By Air* | *By Sea* | *By Air* |
| British | 100 | 498 | 173 | 596 |
| Other Europeans, including Americans | 38 | 357 | 72 | 459 |
| Indians | 637 | 599 | 1,297 | 676 |
| Jews | 102 | 162 | 21 | 74 |
| Other Asiatics | 3 | 87 | 12 | 62 |
| Somalis | 2,106 | 91 | 1,998 | 86 |
| Other Africans | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| Arabs | 2,029 | 813 | 2,218 | 648 |
| TOTAL | 5,018 | 2,608 | 5,791 | 2,601 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 7,626 | | 8,392 | |

Figures for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 were:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1945 | Total Emigrants | 7,960 | Total Immigrants | 6,910 |
| 1946 | Total Emigrants | 26,661 | Total Immigrants | 25,851 |
| 1947 | Total Emigrants | 9,753 | Total Immigrants | 10,299 |

The figures for the year 1948 show a decrease of roughly 2,000 under the respective heads of emigration and immigration as compared with the year 1947, and this is mainly represented by a decrease in the numbers of Somalis and Arabs.

# Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

Aden is primarily a port, and the principal occupations of the population are those connected with the port, such as the coaling of ships, the handling of cargo and the building and repair of vessels. Next come the entrepôt industries such as the cleaning and sorting of coffee and incense, the grading of hides and skins, and the distribution or re-shipment of imported merchandise. The one local product is salt, see Chapter VI. Finally, there are some small industries, such as the cutting of pearl-button blanks from trochas shells for local demand, the manufacture of soap, the fashioning of aluminium utensils from imported aluminium plate, the weaving

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



433 of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the potter's wheel) 463 of crude earthenware jars for storing water. At a rough estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepôt industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries —garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the 464 glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of 167 the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under-employment and poverty.

511 Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are low, partly on account of the 465 very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

465 During the year there was constant pressure to increase rates of wages, not because of any increase in the cost of living (which fell slightly as 467 Japanese cloth at cheaper prices became available), but because of greater 468 organisation among the employees of the three big companies who service the port, and very largely because Government employees received substantial payments in anticipation of arrears of salary from 1st January, 1946, following the visit of a Commission of Enquiry. These interim awards to Government staff were immediately followed by demands for similar bonus payments from commercial employees, backed up by strikes or the threat of strikes, and these demands were generally conceded.

468 A strike of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's labour in November affected the port; a few ships were oiled direct from tankers or by the 504 services of office staff, but some shipping had to be diverted to other ports. The coal and other port labour joined the strike. The strikers refused Government arbitration, and after three weeks the employers conceded the majority of the men's demands.

465 A Labour Advisory Board, on which the Government, Port Trust and other substantial employers of labour are represented, has fixed the 464 minimum rate for unskilled labour at Rs. 1.6.0 (2*s.* 2*d.*) a day, and this rate is now paid by the big firms, but casual labourers who work for Arab or other small employers, do not achieve anything like this sum, even when in regular employment, and the monthly earnings of most men are greatly reduced by irregular employment.

Skilled tradesmen are insufficient for the requirements of Aden and so can command relatively good pay—up to Rs. 100 a month (£7 10*s.*) or more. There is also competition for skilled tradesmen from the oil-fields of the Persian Gulf, where high wages are being offered.

435 Commodity prices have not varied much during the year and the following are approximate figures for December, 1948 (price control is effective for such staple articles of diet as flour, rice and sugar):

463
465
462

| Occupation or trade | Rates per day Men | Rates per day Boys | Number employed at present date Men | Number employed at present date Boys | Hours worked per week | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Public Works Department* | | | | | | |
| 1. Labourers (Coolies). | Rs. 1.4.0 | As. 12 | 1,300 | 50 | 56 | 1. No women employed by the P.W.D. |
| 2. Carpenters. | Rs. 2.8.0 to Rs. 5 according to ability. | — | 92 | Nil | 56 | 2. All boys receive annas 12 per day. |
| 3. Masons. | Rs. 2.8.0 to Rs. 5 according to ability. | — | 168 | Nil | 56 | 3. All labour is casual, and numbers employed vary according to the amount of work in progress. |
| 4. Electricians. | Rs. 5. | — | 6 | Nil | 56 | — |
| 5. Plumbers. | Rs. 4. | — | 3 | Nil | 56 | — |
| 6. Blacksmiths and Fitters | Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 according to ability. | — | 23 | Nil | 56 | — |
| 7. Wiremen, Glaziers and Motor-drivers. | Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 according to ability. | — | 29 | Nil | 56 | — |
| 8. Painters. | Rs. 2. | — | 17 | Nil | 56 | — |
| *Salt Manufacturers* | | | | | | |
| 9. Salt Works. | Re. 1 to Rs. 1.8.0. | As. 12 to As. 14. | 400 | 20 | 54 | 9. Time and piece work. |
| *Port Trust* | | | | | | |
| 10. Boatmen. | Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 per month. | — | 60 | — | 48 | — |
| 11. Unskilled labour. | Rs. 1.4.0. | — | 24 | — | 48 | — |
| 12. Other labour. | Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 per month. | As. 8 * | 60 | 9 | 48 | * Apprentices. |
| 13. Boatmen other than Port Trust employees. | Rs. 1.2.0. | — | 200 | — | 50 | — |
| 14. Coal and Cargo Coolies. | As. 11 to Rs. 1.2.0. | — | 600(Cargo) 1,350(Coal) | — | 50 to 60 | — |
| *Domestic Servants* | | | | | | |
| 15. Cooks. | From Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month. | | | | | |
| 16. House-boys. | ,, Rs. 40 ,, Rs. 85 ,, ,, | | | | | |
| 17. Chokras (Assistants). | ,, Rs. 15 ,, Rs. 30 ,, ,, | | | | | |



G.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949) 1950 MMI Aden MMI

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



The craft used are of two kinds, the sambuk, which is a planked surf-boat of up to 35 feet long, and the huri, a dugout canoe imported from India to which a topstrake is usually added locally. Huris range from 8 to 30 feet and are popular because they can withstand neglect and rough usage. No power-craft are yet used for fishing. During 1948 there were 34 sambuks and 341 huris in the Colony.

Nets are all hand-braided locally. There are several types which operate by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish which are then induced to gill themselves. Beach seins are also used and cast-nets are popular for small shoaling fish. Handlines are used extensively but longlines are not known.

Although prices are generally higher for consumption fresh than for salting, lack of transport prevents fish from reaching the Colony's markets in any quantity from outside a few miles radius. In consequence, landings are spasmodic and prices fluctuate widely, to the detriment of both fisherman and consumer. There is no provision for dealing with temporary gluts except by salting for export. Salt fish is beyond the means of the poorer people, as loss of weight during curing increases its price.

In short, the Colony's fishing industry is not at present able to maintain a steady supply of fish for a community of 80,000 people. A Fishery Officer has, however, been appointed and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the position in years to come.

The island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea is part of the Crown Colony. The Perim fishing community comprises between 20 and 30 families, who salt and export their surplus fish to an annual value of between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000. The Perim pearl fisheries have not been let since 1946, when the lessee is reported to have lost money on the enterprise.

## OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochas shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1



Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Qu'aiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1948 the local government of the Colony remained vested in two Township Authorities. The larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket making and lime burning, using shells collected on the sea shore for this last purpose, and who look on the built up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre and the place in which they find their simple means of recreation. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1



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| | 1949 Arrivals | Departures | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British | 853 | 641 | + | 212 |
| Other Europeans and Americans | 532 | 550 | — | 18 |
| Indians and Pakistanis | 1,937 | 772 | + | 1,165 |
| Jews | 131 | 98 | + | 33 |
| Other Asiatis | 28 | 5 | + | 23 |
| Somalis | 2,146 | 1,622 | + | 524 |
| Arabs | 3,369 | 2,395 | + | 974 |
| | | | + | 2,913 |

| | 1950 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British | 1,259 | 1,857 | — | 598 |
| Other Europeans (including Americans) | 1,151 | 898 | + | 253 |
| Indians and Pakistanis | 3,048 | 1,630 | + | 1,418 |
| Jews | 175 | 100 | + | 75 |
| Somalis | 3,300 | 1,908 | + | 1,392 |
| Arabs | 7,428 | 3,418 | + | 4,010 |
| | | | + | 6,550 |

*Figures for Previous years are :*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1945 | 6,910 | 7,960 | — | 1,050 |
| 1946 | 25,851 | 26,661 | — | 810 |
| 1947 | 10,299 | 9,753 | + | 546 |
| 1948 | 8,392 | 7,626 | + | 766 |

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

647 The Labour and Welfare Officer who arrived in the Colony in January, 1950, began to organise a Labour and Welfare Department under the administrative direction of the District Commissioner. The staff during the year consisted of the British Labour and Welfare Officer and an Arab Assistant Welfare Officer, who had been trained for two years in London and one clerk engaged locally. The study of local conditions, planning for the future, and a good deal of investigation work only were possible. Activities on the welfare side are dealt with in Chapter 7.

463 The occupations of the people of Aden are those of a busy port, and 15 per cent of the estimated male labour force is directly engaged in port activities such as bunkering, handling and transhipment of cargo, ship repairing, dhow building, and the duties performed by pilots, crews of harbour vessels, light-keepers and so forth.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 M841 Aden



The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures are available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden. 463

There is no agriculture in the Colony, and the only local product is salt obtained from the sea by solar evaporation. This industry employs some 750 regular and 550 casual workers. 241 317

There is no heavy industry in Aden apart from some ship repairing (including floating docks). The light industries are confined to finishing processes using imported materials. The most important of these light industries are the production of aluminium, hollow-ware, soap, calico printing, and a little dyeing and weaving of cotton fabric, the manufacture of furniture and cigarettes. Machinery is used in the aluminium and cigarette factories, and to some extent in furniture making. The textile trade is primitive in the extreme and is entirely hand work. The weaving is done in the home, using primitive looms with hand-thrown shuttles. 438 463 286

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Figures more recent than those of the 1946 census are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers (whose families remain at home) and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing. 463 [265]

There is a great deal of casual employment, comparatively few workers have permanent work, unskilled labour is entirely immigrant and dependent to a certain extent on economic conditions in nearby territories. Immigrant workers, whose families remain in their villages, usually return there after about two years. 464

Standards of craftsmanship are low, and the rate of production, quality of tools, and methods of work in general leave much to be desired. Mechanisation is almost unknown and a large labour force is thus employed in such processes as bunkering of coal by hand, and working salt in the pans, as well as, for example, in the building trade where even the wheelbarrow is rarely seen. Commercial firms and the very large number of small locally-owned workshops do not use any proper apprenticeship system. Boys pick up some knowledge as helpers, but are casually employed and may frequently change employment. A general all-round improvement is expected with the opening of the Government Technical College, where night classes for adults 461 [462] 874

9: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1



## PRICES OF COMMODITIES

435

| *Articles* | *Unit* | 1949 | 1950 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butter .. .. | per lb. tin | Rs. 2/4/– | Rs. 2/9/– |
| Cheese .. .. | „ 12-oz. tin | „ 1/1/– | „ 1/5/– |
| Flour .. .. | „ lb. | „ –/5/– | „ –/4/– |
| Rice .. .. | „ „ | „ –/7/– | „ –/7/– |
| Ghee .. .. | „ „ | „ 2/6 to 2/8 | „ 1/4/– to 1/8/– |
| Mutton .. .. | „ „ | „ –/12/– | „ 1/– |
| Potatoes .. | „ „ | „ –/4/– | „ –/4/– |
| Sugar .. .. | „ „ | „ –/5/– | „ –/7/– |
| Tea .. .. | „ „ | „ 1/14/– | „ 1/11/– to 3/5/– |
| Soap .. .. | „ 250 grms. | „ –/6/– | „ –/5/– |
| Electric light .. | „ unit | „ –/5/– | „ –/5/– |
| Water .. .. | „ 100 gallons | „ –/4/– | „ –/4/– |
| Petrol .. .. | „ gallon | „ 1/6/– | „ 1/12/– |

## STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT

463

*Persons directly occupied in the Port :*

Port officials, all workers engaged in ship repairing, bunkering, cargo handling, lightering, on wharves, tugs, launches, etc., but not including fishermen.

*Permanent and Semi-Casual Employees :*

| | |
|---|---|
| Supervisors, Managers, etc. .. .. .. .. | 118 |
| Clerks, typists, etc. .. .. .. .. | 566 |
| Artisans and tradesmen .. .. .. .. | 1,336 |
| Unskilled labourers .. .. .. .. .. | 1,661 |
| Apprentices or boys .. .. .. .. .. | 86 |
| Casual workers (average number) .. .. | 2,500 |
| TOTAL .. | 6,267 |

*Factories*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of factories registered under the Ordinance .. | 22 |
| Total number of employees .. .. .. .. | 3,290 |
| Total number of visits of inspection .. .. .. | 102 |

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MMI Aden AMMI



463 *Factory Workers*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Permanent and semi-casual :* | |
| Managers and supervisors | 83 |
| Clerks | 60 |
| Artisans | 824 |
| Labourers and unskilled | 1,051 |
| Boys | 322 |
| Casual labour (approximate) | 950 |
| TOTAL | 3,290 |

*Employment Abroad*

| | |
|---|---|
| Contracts attested for Aramco (Saudi Arabia) | 276 |
| Contracts attested for other concerns | 148 |
| TOTAL | 424 |

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

466 The following are the more important ordinances in force :

*Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance* (*No.* 20 *of* 1938). This prohibits the employment of children under 15 years of age, and the employment of women or young persons between 15 and 18 years of age on night work or in specified occupations.

*Factories Ordinance* (*No.* 21 *of* 1938). This provides for the health and safety of persons working in factories, their hours, holidays and overtime pay, and provides for the appointment of factory inspectors.

*Workmen's Compensation Ordinance* (*No.* 40 *of* 1939). This provides for the free medical treatment of workmen and their compensation in the event of injury causing loss of employment or death.

*Minimum Wage and Wages Regulation Ordinance* (*No.* 17 *of* 1940). This provides for fixing the minimum wages to be paid in any occupation.

*Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance* (*No.* 23 *of* 1942). This legalises trade unions and makes provision for their registration and the audit of their accounts. The English law as regards " intimidation " is followed.

*Contracts of Employment* (*Indigenous Workers*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 45 *of* 1942). This provides for the employment of natives of Asia or Africa and requires contracts of employment for periods over six months to be in writing and approved by an authorised officer. It provides for the repatriation of employees working in other territories.

*Labour Ordinance* (*No.* 6 *of* 1943). This regulates contracts of employment, requires contracts in writing to be approved by the District Commissioner, and makes provision for deeds of apprenticeship.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden

# Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

## EMPLOYMENT

The occupations of the people of Aden are those of a busy port, and 15 per cent of the estimated male labour force is directly engaged in port activities such as bunkering, handling and transhipment of cargo, ship repairing, dhow building, and the duties performed by pilots, crews of harbour vessels, light-keepers and so forth.

The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures are available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden.

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Accurate figures, more recent than those of the 1946 census, are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops, and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys, employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing.

### SOME STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT

| | *Port, Harbour, Wharves* | *Building Trade* | *Registered Factories* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Supervisors . . . | 174 | 105 | 105 |
| Clerks . . . . | 467 | 93 | 186 |
| Artisans . . . . | 1,892 | 1,432 | 808 |
| Unskilled Labourers . . | 4,350 | 4,782 | 2,046 |
| Young Persons . . . | 203 | 284 | 186 |
| | 7,086 | 6,696 | 3,331 |

*Note*: The above figures are based on a labour census carried out in December, 1952. Certain figures had to be estimated, in particular the number of unskilled labourers employed in port work.

There are no indications of unemployment in the Colony, but a number of workers are considered to be under-employed because of

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1



skipper, one engineer and six crew, one accountant and one clerk/interpreter. A few statistical posts are operating in the Protectorate but Colony statistics on a weight basis will not be collected until April, 1953.

Local fishermen are encouraged to increase yields by using better materials, different gear, powered boats and to fish in any newly discovered areas, particularly off-shore. In addition the setting up of co-operative societies, a debt settlement organisation and better run markets are contemplated.

A Government loans fund of £2,000 per annum for fishermen was created in 1950. Two fishermen have mechanised their sambuks; corks for floating nets have replaced pieces of wood; more and more fishing nets are being made from machine-made twines; and better shark-fishing tackle is being introduced. Manufactured net preservatives and nylon traces are beginning to be used by the hand-line fishermen.

*Fisheries Committee*

A Government Fisheries Committee was appointed in 1951 to direct the activities of the Fisheries Department. Much of the progress mentioned above has been achieved since its creation. The Committee suggested a radical change in fish marketing, the setting up of a marketing organisation, debt settlement, long-term credit for fishermen, the repeal of restrictive fisheries laws and greater efforts by the Fisheries Department to find further fishing grounds and new methods suitable for the local fishing industry. All these suggestions have been favourably considered by Government and it is hoped that development will not be slow once the necessary steps have been taken.

## OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemen Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief products are soap, soft drinks, aluminium pressed domestic utensils, cigarettes and dyed and printed cloth. These supply local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of the industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth by one-man treadle-operated handlooms which supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

65:Landshut S-4 (no date)1950 M1 Middle East
Aden MM1



fewer. Be that as it may, of the total only 4,700 belonged to the original Jewish co.nmunity of Aden: the rest—about 3,800—were Yemeni Jews in transit to Palestine. On arrival in Aden, after a most hazardous journey across the desert, the Yemeni emigrants were usually destitute and in a complete state of exhaustion.

Formerly they used to be quartered either in the Jewish part of the Crater district of the town or in the Jewish quarter of Sheikh 'Othman, about eight miles inland from the Crater. More recently, so much has their number increased, that a separate camp, known as Hashad camp, was for a time set up for them a mile and a half from Sheikh 'Othman. The Hashad camp, which has now been replaced by another—made available by the Aden Government—was subsidised by the Joint Distribution Committee and directed by a woman physician (a remarkable woman in many ways), Dr. Olga Feinberg.

Many of the Yemeni Jews in Aden are employed as coolies, casual labourers and hawkers, a number dwelling in the Coolie Lines and in caves in the rocks. The rest are mainly craftsmen (as they were in Yemen)—gold- and silversmiths, weavers, carders, thatchers, and so forth.

The Jewish community of Aden proper, numbering until recently between 4,000 and 5,000, is centred in the Crater, where Jewish shops, many of them in the Suq, are mingled with those of Muslims, Hindus, and Parsees. A few of the wealthier Jewish merchants have shops in the Steamer Point district, where the Government offices and better-class shops are situated.

Thanks to the generosity of the Menahem Messa family, until the riots, the community had a large and well-equipped school and a spacious new synagogue. In addition, there was another somewhat smaller school. Owing to the lack of qualified teachers, however, the standard of education is low. The new and richly decorated synagogue was also used as a kind of clubhouse, and was an habitual rendezvous when services were not in progress.

The relations between the old Jewish community of Aden and the Muslims used to be tolerably good. But the growing influx of Yemeni Jews led to the development of a certain degree of tension between them and the Muslim coolies, many of whom—incidentally—are themselves of Yemeni origin. It is also likely that inflammatory nationalist broadcasts from Egypt and other Arab stations in the Middle East, blaring out daily through loudspeakers in Aden cafés, have played their part in stirring up anti-Jewish feeling.

Following the appeal of the Arab League for a three-day protest strike against the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine, an anti-Zionist demonstration in Aden developed into a riot. Jewish shops and houses in the Crater and in Sheikh 'Othman were attacked, many being burnt and looted.

From the official report of the Commission of Inquiry, it is evident that the reason why the British authorities were unable to bring the